

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1180

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to commend Mary Melissa Burns Aldridge for exemplary service as a legislative intern.

WHEREAS, each legislative session this body is pleased to recognize certain persons who have committed themselves, through their adroit service, to the betterment of the legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Aldridge is one such individual who has distinguished herself in her role as a legislative intern for Senator Charlotte Burks; Mrs. Aldridge's work has resulted in innumerable benefits for the legislators she assisted and the General Assembly as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Aldridge is presently a student at the Tennessee Technological University, where she is pursuing an Education degree with certifications in Political Science and History; she expects to graduate in December 2005; and

WHEREAS, a native Nashvillian, Melissa Aldridge attended Hillwood High School for three years before graduating from Murfreesboro Central High School; and

WHEREAS, she then earned her Nursing degree from Belmont College and embarked upon a multi-faceted Nursing career that spanned eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, through hard work, dedication, and a singular commitment to excellence, Melissa quickly proceeded from being a staff-level nurse to serve as Director of Nursing and Nurse Consultant; she also taught in a community college Nursing program; and

WHEREAS, she retired from Nursing in 1994 following a motor vehicle accident that resulted in a closed head injury; and

WHEREAS, by displaying great strength and perseverance in the face of adversity, Melissa has battled back from her injury and is attending Tennessee Technological University through the auspices of the Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aldridge is a person of integrity, grace and modesty; her worthy goal is to graduate from college and begin to give back to the State of Tennessee, which has so generously provided the means for her re-education, by re-entering the work force as a self-sufficient, productive citizen; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the value of Mrs. Aldridge's many talents and personal experience, Governor Bredesen appointed her to serve on the Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council this year, upon the nomination of Senator Charlotte Burks; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Aldridge is also active with College Democrats and is a faithful member of Fairfield Glade Baptist Church; her hobbies include politics, antiques and reading; and

WHEREAS, although a native Tennessean, she has also lived in Texas and Alabama and has owned a business in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aldridge hails from a close-knit family, and she values her relationships with her family above all else; and

WHEREAS, she is fortunate to share love and companionship with her husband of over thirty years, William Gilbert Aldridge, who is an ordained Baptist minister and a graduate of Tennessee Technological University with a degree in Education; and

WHEREAS, the Aldridges are the proud parents of a son, Ryan Curtis Aldridge, and a daughter and son-in-law, Susan Elizabeth Aldridge Glore and Ernest Glore, and the devoted grandparents of Amelia Elizabeth Aldridge and William Zachary Aldridge Swafford; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Aldridge also enjoys a close and loving relationship with her sister and brother-in-law, Gena Marie and Charles Harrison, and her parents, William Curtis and Martha Vance Burns; both Mr. and Mrs. Burns are retired, yet they remain active in the Democratic Party on both the national and state levels; and

WHEREAS, eager to familiarize herself with the characteristics and complexity of Tennessee state government and to further her studies, Mrs. Aldridge brought her many abilities and singular expertise to Capitol Hill for the 2004 session of the One Hundred Third General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 2004 legislative session, Melissa Aldridge has surpassed all criteria that define a devoted and conscientious legislative intern; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Melissa Aldridge is truly a remarkable lady who serves as an inspiration to this Body, and her service to Senator Burks and her assistant, Pam Ash, has been invaluable; and

WHEREAS, utilizing her outstanding abilities and her soothing nature, she has kept 9 Legislative Plaza afloat during a very difficult session; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Aldridge has performed her many duties with extraordinary insight and rare decorum, and she will definitely be missed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Mary Melissa Burns Aldridge for outstanding service as a legislative intern for Senator Charlotte Burks and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.